

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON
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CHEMISTRY DEPARTMENT

July 6, 1961

Dr. J. Lederberg
Department of Genetics
Stanford University
Medical Center
Palo Alto, California

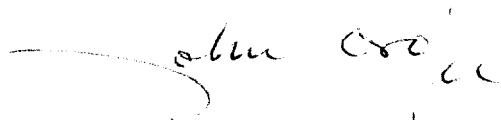
Dear Dr. Lederberg:

Thank you for your recent letter requesting reprints of our recent papers which appeared in "Nature" and of other similar publications from my laboratory. Thank you also for the reprints you sent me and needless to say that I would appreciate receiving any of your future publications on this subject.

I am pleased to find mutual agreement in the interpretation of the broad problem of organic evolution in the Universe, a problem that as you well pointed out has preoccupied long before the mind of few but notable scientists. In fact, upon finding carbon compounds in the meteorite of Alais, Berzelius in 1834 was concerned about the possible existence of life in other worlds, as he cogently wrote: "Enthält dieser erdige Stein wohl Humus oder Spuren von Anderen organischen Verbindungen? Gibt dies möglicherweise einen Wink über die Gegenwart organischer Gebilde auf anderen Weltkörpern?"

Hoping that some day I may be able to meet you personally, and discuss in more detail the above problem, I remain,

Cordially yours,



John Oro
Associate Professor

JO:sd

Enc: Reprints